

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

PASSPORT RENEWAL NOTICE

Over the past month we have noticed that passports renewal (actual arrival from the USA) takes in average three weeks instead of usual ten days. We encourage you to apply for passport renewal at least one month in advance if you plan to travel or use your new passport for any other purposes.



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Farewell Concert for Bob and Pernille at Verbist

Verbist Children's Center planned and organized a wonderful concert for our Consul, Bob Pope, and his wife Pernille, who returned to the USA in early March 2010. It was a magnificent show to display appreciation for all the support Bob and Pernille have given to Verbist over the past year.

Children sang traditional Mongolian songs and danced national dances. They designed a poster showing Bob and Pernille's pictures with kids, and embroidered a beautiful picture as a gift.

After the concert the whole Consular Staff and guests from the U.S. Embassy were treated to delicious booz and bانش made by Verbist children.

We would like to thank all the Verbist kids, staff and Sister Lucille for a wonderful day at Verbist.



PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CONSULAR SERVICES

The Department Of State published a proposed rule in the Federal Register on February 9, 2010, stating its intent to adjust the Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, including passports, immigrant visas and services to American citizens. The Department now is in the process of reviewing and considering any comments received from the public, to decide whether any changes to the proposed rule are warranted as a result.

Proposed changes to **existing fees** are as follows:

- The total charge for a **first-time passport book** for an adult will increase **from \$100 to \$135**;
- The total charge for an **adult passport book renewal** will increase **from \$75 to \$110**;
- The total charge for a **minor passport book** (age 16 and under) will increase **from \$85 to \$105**;
- The fee for a **file search and verification of U.S. citizenship** will increase **from \$60 to \$150**;
- Application fee for a **Consular Report of Birth Abroad** will change **from \$65 to \$100**;
- The fee to make arrangements for a deceased non-U.S. citizen will be \$200 plus expenses, previously charged at the consular time rate of \$265 plus expenses;
- The **immigrant visa (IV) application fee** - which must be collected from all applicants for immigrant visas who are not fee-exempt - will be tiered. The new fees will be **\$330** for immediate relative and family preference cases, **\$720** for employment-based cases and **\$305** for other cases (special IVs, Diversity Visas (DVs), self-petitioned cases);
- The **immigrant visa security surcharge** - which must be collected from all applicants for immigrant visas who are not fee-exempt - will increase **from \$45 to \$74**;
- The **DV fee** (which is charged in addition to the application processing fee and security surcharge) will change **from \$375 to \$440**;
- The fee for **affidavit of support review** by NVC will increase **from \$70 to \$88**;
- The fee to determine **returning resident status** will decrease **from \$400 to \$380**;
- Notarial and authentication services**, which now range **from \$20 to \$30**, will all be **\$50**.

5. **New fees** are:

- \$82 for extra passport pages**; and
- There will be a **\$450 fee** to document **formal renunciation of U.S. citizenship**.

US STUDENT ACHIEVER'S PROGRAM 2011 IS ANNOUNCED

The Education Advising and Resource Center (EARC) is happy to announce the US Student Achiever's Program (USAP) for 2011. The purpose of the program is to assist the financially challenged but highly talented, intellectual and determined students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States with an aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders for tomorrow's Mongolia. The deadline of application is 5 p.m. on April 23, 2010. For more information, please contact EARC at Sukhbaatar district, khoroo 8, Student's Avenue
 Building MKM - 24, 1st floor, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
 Tel: 976-11-319016
 Fax: 976-11-326941
 Website: www.earcmn.org

New Law Makes Absentee Voting Easier for Overseas Americans

With elections taking place later this year, voters overseas should make sure that they are aware of recent regulation changes.

On October 28, 2009, Congress enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for overseas Americans.

New Procedures for 2010 Elections

Beginning with the November 2010 general election, and for all subsequent general, special, and primary elections, states will be required to mail out ballots at least 45 days prior to an election for a federal office. This requirement may cause some states to select earlier primary dates in order to comply with the 45 day mailing deadline, or to request waivers due to special circumstances.

In addition to mailing ballots to overseas voters, the states will be required, at the voter's request, to provide registration forms, absentee ballot request forms, and blank ballots via fax or email. However, each state's laws determine whether ballot requests or voted ballots can be returned via fax or email. The new law prohibits states from rejecting marked ballots based on notarization, paper size, or paper weight requirements. The witnessing requirements of individual states remain in place.

Overseas Absentee Ballot Requests

Effective immediately, states will no longer be required by federal law to continue to mail election materials to overseas addresses (even when they are determined to be invalid) for two complete general election cycles on the basis of a single ballot request. It will now be up to each state to determine

how long to continue to send out election materials before requiring overseas voters to submit new ballot requests. This change, sought by local election officials, should greatly decrease the volume of voting materials sent abroad to addresses where Americans no longer reside.

State Department Recommendations

In light of these changes, the Department of State recommends that all U.S. voters residing abroad request absentee ballots from their local election officials at the start of each calendar year, and whenever there is a change of address, change of e-mail address, or change of name, by completing and sending in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). To locate information on your specific state's requirements, and to obtain an on-line version of the FPCA, please visit www.fvap.org. Voters may also pick up a hard copy of the FPCA from any U.S. embassy or consulate. FPCAs may be mailed to your local voting officials in the United States via international mail or from any U.S. embassy or consulate. Many states allow U.S. citizens overseas to submit the FPCA by e-mail or fax.

The Department of State strongly encourages all U.S. overseas voters to provide email addresses or fax numbers on their FPCAs to enable local election officials to transmit election materials in the fastest manner available, which should then allow sufficient time for the return of voted ballots. For information regarding your specific state, please visit www.fvap.org.

Emergency Ballots

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for the November general elections for federal offices, although some states also permit its use for elections for state and local offices. Beginning in January 2011, the new law allows use of the FWAB for primary, special, and runoff elections for federal offices. Voters who request an absentee ballot in advance of their state's ballot request deadline, but who fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials in time to vote, should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot and send it back to local election officials in time for it to be counted. An on-line version of the FWAB, together with instructions for its use, is available at www.fvap.gov.

Questions?

The Voting Assistance Officer at the US Embassy Ulaanbaatar is available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact, send an e-mail to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov

"Once you have locked your door, you are the emperor in your own domain." - Mongolian proverb

Fulbright Science and Technology Award 2011

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy to Mongolia is now accepting applications for the 2010 Fulbright International Science and Technology Award.

The International Fulbright Science and Technology Award is for Ph.D study at top U.S. institutes in science, technology and engineering. Eligible fields include: aeronautics and astronautics/aeronautical engineering, astronomy/planetary sciences, biology, biomedical engineering, chemistry, computer sciences/engineering, energy, engineering (electrical, chemical, civil, mechanical, ocean and petroleum), environmental science/ engineering, geology/ earth and atmospheric sciences, information sciences/engineering, materials science/engineering, mathematics, neuroscience/brain and cognitive science, oceanography, and physics.

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a Mongolian citizen
- Hold a first university degree (B.A. or equivalent)
- Fluent English (Minimum IBT score of 92)
- Be available for a personal interview with the selection panel

By April 30, 2010 interested applicants must submit to the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy :

- Application Form

- A clearly written research objective
- A professional resume
- 3 Letters of reference
- IBT score report of 92 (Institutional TOEFL will be accepted, minimum score 580)

Entry House, U.S. Embassy

Big Ring Road, XI Microdistrict, Ulaanbaatar

Telephone: 312372 or 329095



A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslister. Your membership in the Embassy Newslister will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential.

Send an email to the Embassy at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

Upcoming Holidays

May 31—Memorial Day

June 1—Mother and Child Day

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11320-776
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place
Washington, DC, 20521-4410

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Kenya](#) 03/16/2010

[Haiti](#) 03/15/2010

[Mexico](#) 03/14/2010

[Colombia](#) 03/05/2010

[Eritrea](#) 03/02/2010

[Turkey](#) 03/19/2010

[Chile](#) 02/28/2010

[India - Security Issues](#) 01/29/2010

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time.

<http://www.flightstats.com/>

Security Delays for U.S. Flights

Flights arriving to and departing from the United States may experience delays due to increased security measures. Passengers should plan to arrive early at airports overseas and in the U.S. For more information on these increased security measures, please see the TSA's website: http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/dec25_guidance.shtm

